(c) and (d) OMCs have reported that there is no case of any ROs selling ordinary petrol or diesel at higher price in the name of premium quality. For the benefit of the customer it is ensured that:

(i) Separate dispensing units are provided for (dispensing branded petrol and branded diesel at ROs, so that customers can purchase fuel as per their choice. In case multi dispensing units, nozzles of branded petrol and branded diesel are identified with separate colour.

(ii) Price list of branded and non-branded fuel is displayed prominently at the ROs.

(iii) Price of the product is displayed in electronic dispensing units.

(e) and (f) OMCs undertake regular and surprise inspections of Retail Outlets and also take action under Marketing Discipline Guidelines (MDG) and Dealership Agreements against those indulging in adulteration and malpractices. MDG provide for termination of dealership in the first instance itself for serious malpractices like adulteration, tampering of seals, and unauthorized fittings/gears in dispensing units.

In order to check adulteration, the Government has taken a number of additional initiatives *viz.*, Automation of Retail Outlets, Third party certification of Retail Outlets, Monitoring of movement of tank trucks through Global Positioning System (GPS), Jan Kerosene Pariyojna (JKP), Use of Marker in Kerosene, Revision of MDG etc.

Demand of subsidy of fuel purchase by BEST

†1667. SHRI MANOHAR JOSHI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has received a proposal from Brihan Mumbai Electric Supply and Transport Undertaking (BEST) demanding subsidy on purchase of fuel;

(b) if so, whether Government's decision on this demand is positive; and

(c) the amount Government receives as tax from BEST every year and the amount given to BEST as assistance every year in lieu of this?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) No proposal has been received from Brihan Mumbai Electric Supply Transport Undertaking (BEST) demanding subsidy on purchase of fuel.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

(c) The Ministry of Finance has informed that it does not keep a record of taxes of specific Enterprises.

Adulteration in petro-products

†1668. SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN TIWARI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that complaints of adulteration on high scale and under measurement at petrol-pumps in the country have been received and reported in print media;

(b) if so, whether concrete measures have been taken to check this fraud; and

(c) if so, the details, thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) to (c) Possibility of adulteration of petrol/diesel by some unscrupulous elements cannot be ruled out due to huge price difference between petrol/diesel and various adulterants available in the market and the easy miscibility of these products with petrol/diesel.

Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) undertake regular and surprise inspections of Retail Outlets and also take action under Marketing Discipline Guidelines (MDG) and Dealership Agreements against those indulging in adulteration and malpractices. MDG provide for termination of dealership in the first instance itself for serious malpractices like adulteration, tampering of seals, and unauthorized fittings/gears in dispensing units.

In order to check adulteration, the Government has taken a number of additional initiatives *viz.*, Automation of Retail Outlets, Third party certification of Retail Outlets, Monitoring of movement of tank trucks through Global Positioning System (GPS), Jan Kerosene Pariyojna JKP), Use of Marker in Kerosene, Revision of MDG etc.

Closure of petrol pumps by private companies

†1669. SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that a private company had done the job of allotting many petrol pumps in the country;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that many petrol pumps so allotted are being closed down now;

(c) if so, the reasons for the closure of these petrol pumps; and

(d) the action plan being made by Government to save those people who are getting ruined due to the closure of their petrol pumps?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) to (c) As per the Resolution of 8th March 2002, Government have granted authorization to market transportation fuels to four private companies namely, M/s. Reliance Industries Limited (RIL), M/s. Essar Oil Limited (EOL), M/s. Shell India Marketing Pvt. Limited (SIMPL) and M/s Reliance Petroleum Limited (RPL).

As on 01.12.2008, private sector oil companies have set up 2769 Retail Outlets (ROs) in the country.

EOL has informed that they have not closed their ROs. However, RIL has informed that sales at their ROs are negligible due to selling price differential between private and public sector ROs, leading to the closure of some of their ROs in the country. SIMPL has informed that they have been compelled to shut down some of their ROs that were not proving cost effective to operate but continue to serve customers' interested in their quality, quantity and service proposition at the remaining sites. RPL has informed that they have not set up any RO in the country.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi